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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 2

pp. 2826 - 3289

68518

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FO 371 / 68518					
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DEPARTMENTAL

Mr. Peake D. 1.06 p.m. 28th February, 1948
No. 195
28th February, 1948. R. 2.15 p.m. 28th February, 1948

Repeated to Sofia
Bucharest
Cairo B.M.E.O.
Jerusalem
New York U.K.Del.
Washington

E 2826

MAR '348

IMPORTANT
SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 195 of February 28th repeated for information Sofia, Bucharest, Middle East Office Cairo, Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Washington.

My telegram No. 176.

Passage of illegal Jewish immigrants through Yugoslavia.

Naval Attaché was in Dubrovnik on February 14th and February 15th and observed no signs of arrangements being made for the reception of these immigrants. In his opinion it would have been physically impossible to accommodate them since the town is being used as a reception base for Yugoslavs returning from [gp.undec.] to return to business. On February 18th the Naval Attaché also visited Sarajevo through which immigrants would have had to pass if they were going to Dubrovnik. There were no signs of their passage. The British Consul at Split visited Dubrovnik on February 24th and February 25th and reports that he was unable to obtain any information of these immigrants. He admits that his surveys are not complete and it is therefore possible that some illegal emigration is taking place from this area but it cannot I think be on a large scale.

2. The suggestion mentioned in Sofia telegram No. 253 that the contingent will embark from an Albanian port seems to me highly improbable. There are no railway communications between Yugoslavia and the Albanian coast and the selection of so decided a Moslem area as a base for illegal Jewish immigration to Palestine seems unlikely to say the least of it.

Foreign Office please pass to Middle East Office
Cairo, Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and
Washington as my telegrams Nos. 5, 3, 11, 28.

[Repeated to Middle East Office Cairo, United Kingdom
Delegation New York and Washington.]

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for
repetition to Jerusalem.]

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E

E 2859

4

1948

CELESTINE

2 MAR 1948

Registry
Number
FROM

E2859/2/31

No.

Chancery
Washington

Dated

9/24/1-1/48

Received
in Registry

22 Feb

2 Mar

Swansea Fruit and Steamship Co. 11/5. "MARCHANT"
 After Washington letter 9241-148 of 8 Jan (E 615/2/11)
 Enclosed further letter from same Co. re their motor-
 ship "MARCHANT" which is to go to Beano.
 Enclosed approval for the transfer to Henderson reporting
 was given on 18 July 1947.
 Info that would be passed to people concerned
 on the case of the "PATUCA" E 615/2/11

Last Paper.

2826

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Jpt. J. D. Nathan
to

from M. Bick.

(encs)

Mar. 4.

(Action
completed.)J. D. Nathan
4/3

(Index)

J. D. Nathan
4/4

Next Paper.

E 2882.

E26513 F.O.P.

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E 2859

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

Ref: G24/-/48

2 MAR 1948 22nd February 1948

Dear Department,

Please refer to our letter G24/-/48 of the 8th January about the motorship PATUCA which is owned by the Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company and was granted Honduran registry, after our approval had been given, in the absence of any indication that she was likely to engage in the transport of Jewish illegal immigrants.

2. We enclose a further letter from this same company about their motorship MARCALA, which is to go to Genoa. Our approval for her transfer to Honduran registry was requested on the 16th July 1947 and was given on the 18th July. As mentioned in our letter under reference, the activities of this company have so far given rise to no suspicion, and we should therefore be grateful if you would pass the word along to those concerned, as you did in the case of the PATUCA, (your letter E 615/2/31 of the 4th February), so that the difficulties which arose over this company's motorship BONITO may be avoided.

Yours ever,

Chancery

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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C O P Y

6

SUWANNEE FRUIT & STEAMSHIP COMPANY

foot of Catherine Street, Jacksonville 1,
Florida.

February 17, 1948

Mr. F.J. White
British Vice-Consul
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Mr. White:

We have just completed negotiations to charter our Honduran MS "MARCALA" for a trip from Baltimore, Md., and New York City, to Genoa, Italy, with general cargo.

May we ask that you pass on this information to the various Branches of your Government who may be interested since we do not want to encounter the difficulties we had recently in Gibraltar with our MS "BONITO".

Yours very truly,

/s/ C. deMontmollin
Asst. to Vice-Pres.

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(E 2859/2/31)

Dear John,

Would you take the same action as you did in the case of the "Patuca"?

Yours ever
(J.G.S. Beith)

J.D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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End March, 1948.

JG SB

Draft.

J.D. Higham
Colonial Office

from

Mr. Beith

Copy letter from
Washington Embassy.

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION

3/3/48
4/3/48

Dear John,

With reference to Cable's letter No.E615/2/31 of January 19, I enclose a copy of a further letter from the Chancery at Washington about the Honduranian ship "Marcala".

Would you take the same action as you did in the case of the "Patuca"?

AB Mar 2
Yours ever
(sgcl) J. S. Beil.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

365) Wt. 25886/149 100m. 1/48 A.O.St.

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J.G.S. Beith, Esq.
Foreign Office

INDEXED.

SECRET

Colonial Office Reference 7602/46A/48.

With the requirements of Mr J.D. Higham

to 12th March 1948.

Ref. 2859

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76021/46A/48

SAVING.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of GIBRALTAR.

Date. ¹² March, 1948.

No. ¹³².....Saving.

CONFIDENTIAL

My savingram No. 63.

M.S. MARCALA.

Above - named vessel, owned by Company which also owns M.S. PATUCA and BONITA, will, I understand, pass through Gibraltar shortly, en route for Genoa.

2. We have no reason to believe that this ship has any connection with the traffic in illegal immigrants to Palestine.

SECEP.

10

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E

E 2883

1948

PALESTINE

2 MAR 1948

Registry
Number
FROM

E2883/2/31

No.

P. Lacey
Ankara

Dated

27/40/48

Received
in Registry

26.4.48

2 Mar

Illegal Jewish Immigration
Both H/11 172 and H/11 130 (E1817/2/21)
seem to be based on a misapprehension
for guidance given outline of what happens
when immigrant ships pass through the
Bosphorus coming from Roumania or Bulgaria.

Last Paper.

2882

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

15/ Dadds.

Adams

March.

8/ Robertson N.I.S.

T. L. Graham. 80

Mar 8

(Minutes.)

Copy Adhy (Mr Dadds)
for obs.

MIS

Co.

usual names
for info.

Sontinen Sept 28/48

JB Mar. 3

See within minutes by L. Bureau. May 19. x
L. Litzman. May 20.

(Action
completed.)

L. L. 12/3

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25/4/48

Next Paper.

2027

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

F. 2883/2/31

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The Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires mentioned to me this morning the possibility that the Arab Governments might ask Turkey to take some action under the Montreux Convention to stop shipments of Jewish immigrants passing through the Straits from the Black Sea on their way to fight in Palestine. The grounds for action would be that the immigrants, on the public admission of the Jewish authorities, were men of military age being sent to Palestine for the express purpose of taking part in military operations there.

The Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires suggested that we might be asked to support the Arab case with Turkey.

Could we have legal advice on the question whether there would be any grounds for asking Turkey to take action on these lines? I imagine that the Arabs might run into considerable difficulties unless they were prepared to admit that the Jewish State was a state and was engaged in war, neither of which admissions would in other respects suit them at all.

RAB

19th May, 1948.

Mr. Beckett
for the 9th Divt has nothing to add.

would Mr. F. S. Maurice kindly
write a minute on this subject
W.S.B. 5

Please see Mr. F. S. Maurice.
minute below. It is plain
the answer is No.
W.S.B. 20
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Minutes.

I think it would be quite hopeless to try and bring this case under the provisions of the Montreux Convention. In the main that Convention relates to the passage of types of vessels as such and the first point is that unless the vessels carrying these immigrants could be made out to be sort of troop transports, and therefore naval auxiliaries within the meaning of the Convention (which, for reasons I will give in a moment, I do not think they could) they would rank for the purposes of the Convention as vessels of commerce and not vessels of war. Article 7 of the Convention specifically defines vessels of commerce as meaning for the purposes of the Convention all vessels to which Section II of the Convention does not apply, i.e. all vessels which are not vessels of war or naval auxiliaries of the kind specified in Section II. Now, as regards vessels of commerce; even assuming that we could regard the present situation as constituting a time of war within the meaning of the Convention, Article 4 provides that, in time of war, Turkey, not being belligerent, vessels of commerce shall enjoy complete liberty of passage just as in time of peace, subject only to fulfilling the necessary formalities as regards sanitary control and so forth. Article 5, which deals with the case of it being time of war, and Turkey being belligerent scarcely seems applicable on any view. But here again what it says is that merchant ships shall enjoy complete liberty of passage so long as they do not either assist the enemy, i.e. the Turks' enemy or belong to a country which is at war with Turkey. This article is certainly not applicable to present circumstances or to any likely to occur in the immediate future. It must be remembered that the vessels concerned probably fly the flag of countries at peace with Turkey and whether they could ever be regarded as assisting the Turks' enemy would presumably depend on whether a state of war could be said to have come into existence between Turkey on the one hand and any Jewish State.

2. I now turn to the situation concerning vessels of war. ~~But~~ there is no possibility of making out the vessels engaged in this traffic to be vessels of war, unless they can be classed as naval

auxiliaries/

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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auxiliaries within the meaning of the Convention, and even then I do not think that the Convention would enable any effective interdiction to be placed on their passage. Naval auxiliaries are for the purposes of the Convention defined in paragraph 6 of Annex 2 and what it says is that auxiliary vessels "are naval surface vessels [in French "sont des bâtiments de surface faisant partie de la flotte militaire"] the standard displacement of which exceeds 100 tons, which are normally employed on fleet duties or as troop transports....." (The definition then goes on with other matters not here material). It is clear, I think, that this provision, prima facie, applies to vessels which have definite naval status, are part of some country's fleet and are normally employed for naval purposes or as troop transports, or something of the kind. In time of war it would, I think, be possible, and indeed we ourselves took the view during the late war, that vessels which were employed ad hoc by belligerents as naval auxiliaries or troop transports must be deemed to be part of their fleets and as coming within this definition. In the present case it would be very difficult to argue in this way. Most of the vessels would be flying the flag of countries such as Panama or Bulgaria, of whose fleets they would not form part, and they would be totally devoid of all naval status, and it might even be difficult to make out that they were being used as troop transports. It is indeed doubtful whether at the time of their passage the immigrants concerned would have any military status whatever, even if one assumes that the Jewish forces in Palestine could be regarded as having the status of belligerents. It is probably only on reaching Palestine and being enrolled in local forces that these persons would acquire any military status.

3. However, let us assume for the sake of argument that it were possible to contend that these vessels ranked as naval auxiliaries, and therefore were prima facie vessels of war within the meaning of Section II of the Montreux Convention. Now this section imposes various interdictions on the movement through the Straits of given types of vessels of war even in times of peace, but it so happens that naval auxiliaries are one of the classes of vessels which in time of peace can move freely through the Straits (see Article 10, where it is also specifically stated "Whatever flag they may fly"). The only condition on their passage is that they must conform to the provisions of Article 13 which provides that all vessels of war going through the Straits must give certain notices of their passage.

4. As regards passage of vessels of war in time of war, the first paragraph of Article 19 provides that in time of war, and if Turkey is not belligerent, vessels of war shall enjoy complete liberty of passage through the Straits in the same conditions as are specified in

Articles /

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Minutes

Articles 10 and 18. This, so far as naval auxiliaries is concerned, means that their position would be exactly as in time of peace. However, Article 19 in its second paragraph says that if, although Turkey is not belligerent, the vessel of war belongs to a belligerent Power, it can only go through the Straits either in the exercise of the rights and obligations of the Covenant of the League of Nations or in the process of giving assistance to a State, victim of aggression, in virtue of a treaty of mutual assistance to which Turkey is a party, concluded within the framework of the League of Nations and registered under Article 18 of the Covenant. Even if we regard the United Nations as being substituted for the League for the purposes of this provision it seems clear that the passage of vessels carrying Jewish immigrants would not come under these ~~exceptions~~, so that it might be possible to regard their passage as being prohibited under the second paragraph of Article 19 provided:

- (a) the present situation can be regarded as being "time of war";
- (b) the vessels can be regarded as being vessels of war and
- (c) they can be regarded as belonging to a belligerent Power.

This would involve first that the situation in Palestine should be regarded as constituting at least a legal state of belligerency. Secondly, that the vessels concerned should be regarded as being anyhow equivalent to naval auxiliaries; and thirdly that the vessels should belong to the Jewish State or authorities in Palestine. If they do not so belong, i.e. if they belong to Panama or Bulgaria or someone, they would not, at any rate, under present conditions be belligerent vessels, and even if they belong to the Jewish authorities in Palestine they could only be regarded as belligerent if international recognition of belligerency had been accorded to the forces of those authorities.

5. Finally, there is Article 20 of the Convention which deals with the case of it being time of war and of Turkey being belligerent. Under present conditions this article is clearly not applicable. What it says, however, is that in those circumstances vessels of war have no rights of passage at all and their passage is left entirely to the discretion of the Turkish Government which may or may not permit it. Again, we have all the doubts as to whether the vessels are vessels of war at all and so on. But even if they are, Turkey is not under any obligation to prohibit their passage, though she may do so and presumably if she had come to be an actual belligerent on the Arab side she would in fact be willing to do so. However, this case seems remote. I think the conclusion to be drawn from the above is that it is only with the utmost difficulty, if at all, that this case could in any/

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C. H. Lawrence
20th May, 1948.



Mr Balfour.

Could you please inform
M. Dimichie accordingly.

I think there is also a Bl.
from Cairo on this point.

3/2/3

22.5

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No. 27/40/48

British Embassy,
ANKARA.

E 2883

26th FEB 1948 2 MAR 1948

SECRET:

Dear Department,

As it seems to us that Cairo telegram No. 172 to you and your telegram No. 130 to us about Jewish illegal immigrants, are based on a misconception, it may be useful for you to have an outline of what happens when immigrant ships pass through the Bosphorus coming from Roumania or Bulgaria.

First they stop at the control post at the Black Sea end of the Bosphorus and if necessary a sanitary guard is put on board. The object of this guard is to make sure that none of the passengers has any unpleasant disease and that no-one boards or leaves the ships during their passage to the Dardanelles. At the Dardanelles end the guards leave the ships and they go on their way.

When the ships reach Turkish waters the Assistant Naval Attaché at Istanbul is told, as a matter of courtesy, by his Turkish friends and he tries to get a good look at them, though this is impossible if they make the passage at night. He then reports their passage to the naval authorities and to us: we telegraph you and anyone else concerned, including of course, Sofia. The Assistant Naval Attaché is greatly helped in this part of his job by the information which Sofia and Bucarest send us.

Such ships, apart from the compulsory stops at either end of the Straits, never break transit by putting in at a port and there is no legal means of compelling them to do so. The Turkish guards are empowered to check the passengers' health only and not their origins, race or political opinions. Even if they tried to do so, at our request, the information would almost certainly be refused and little could be discovered during the short time they are on board. Neither the Assistant Naval Attaché, nor the Press Attaché nor journalists can board the ships unless they pass themselves off as Turkish sanitary inspectors or pilots. The Assistant Naval Attaché, through his Turkish friends, is able to get a little gossip from the guards but it does not amount to anything like enough to start a publicity drive and he obviously

/cannot

SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

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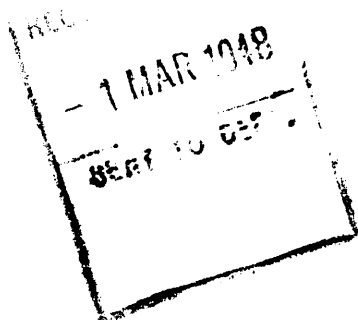
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canno check it.

are sending a copy of this letter to Cairo Chancery.

Yours ever,

ANKARA CHANCERY.



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E 3026/2/31

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1948

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E 3031

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PALESTINE

5 MAR 49

Registry
Number

Registry Number E 3031/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

*Received
in Registry*

Received
in Registry

Last Paper.

3026

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

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Cypher/OTP

3031

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5 MAR 1948
FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

DIPLOMATIC

Mr. Sterndale Bennett
No. 263

D. 11.02 a.m. March 4th, 1948.
R. 11.43 a.m. March 4th, 1948.

Repeated to Washington, Bucharest, Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Saving to Belgrade, British Middle East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet.

IMPORTANT
RESTRICTED

Addressed to the Foreign Office telegram No. 263 of March 2nd, repeated for information to Washington, Bucharest, Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Saving to Belgrade, British Middle East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet.

My telegram No. 161 (Sent to Foreign Office only), and my telegram No. 261.

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has now replied at length to my note of January 31st in a note dated February 28th received March 1st. He has of course seized with alacrity on the "Manchester Guardian" article of February 11th (see my telegram No. 237). Following is summary of his note, copy of which follows by next bag.

2. He opens by expressing astonishment at the tone of our note and at its publication before the Bulgarian Government had a chance to reply. He deduces that we had some ulterior political and propaganda motive.

3. The note then rejects emphatically, accusation that Bulgarian authorities failed in their duty by aiding a certain number of Jews from Roumania to embark at Bourgas in Panamanian vessels. It claims that international law was scrupulously observed and that none of the Bulgarian Government's actions, unlike those of some of the other States, hindered the efforts of United Nations to reach fair settlement in Palestine.

4. Minister for Foreign Affairs then expressed his satisfaction at finding himself supported by the Manchester Guardian. Relevant part of the article is quoted verbatim and agreement is expressed with the view that so far as carrying out the obligations of United Nations is concerned His Majesty's Government are in no position to reproach the Bulgarian Government. Even if the Bulgarian Government could have supposed that the Jews crossing Bulgaria were, in fact, en route for Palestine, they would have been acting in good faith since emigration was encouraged by United Nations and there was no reason for thinking that His Majesty's Government would fail to carry out their obligations.

/5. Then follows

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(a) In September last Bulgarians were approached by Roumanian Red Cross to authorize passage of a group of Jews from Roumania emigrating to Cuba. It was clear from the documents presented that this was a normal emigration. Group carried a valid emigrant passport issued by Roumanian authorities number 130,072 of 1947. A collective visa giving permission to emigrate to Cuba issued by Cuban Consul General at Antwerp was also presented to Bulgarian authorities

6. In face of these documents, Bulgarian authorities had no reason whatever to doubt the purpose of the journey, particularly as it was being handled by Roumanian Red Cross. The fact that Panamanian vessels were being used for the voyage further confirmed Bulgarian authorities in their belief. It was only now (according to your statement of February 11th in the House of Commons) that the ownership of the vessels concerned had been called in question. His Majesty's Government could hardly reproach Bulgarian Government for helping illegal immigration of Jews when they themselves with all the means at their disposal, had not been able to establish until the last moment any irregularity in the documents of these Panamanian vessels.

[Begins]

[Ends]

8. The Minister for Foreign Affairs considers that the legality and sincerity of the acts of

/Bulgarian authorities

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9. My comments will follow.

[Repeated to Washington and
United Kingdom Delegation
New York]

SSSS

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181

E

E 3047 22

5 MAR 1948

Registry Number } E3047/2/31
FROM
No. 40 Minute
Dated 11th Dec
Received in Registry } 2nd Dec
5 -

Illegal Arms Traffic to Palestine.
Minute for Mr V. Evans. Apparently have
submitted to no legal aspect of stopping
and searching on the high seas any vessel
suspected of carrying illegally, arms to
Palestine.
If any ask whether any objection to use
of 40 foot gun on ship in E10824/
48/31/47

Last Paper.

3031

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

JB Mar 5

(Action completed.)	(Index.)
9/11/53	310150

Next Paper.

3054

26513 F.O.P.

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Minutes.

Mr. Vincent Evans

E 3047

encl 23

The competent Department of the Admiralty have been working on the question of stopping the arms traffic to Palestine. They consulted us about the legal aspects of stopping and searching on the high seas any vessel suspected of the traffic and seizing and diverting any vessel found to be engaged in the traffic. The opinion of the Foreign Office Legal Advisers was furnished in my letter to Colonel Sherman on E 10824/48/31. The Admiralty are, on the Departmental level, entirely in agreement with the Foreign Office view and propose to make a submission to the First Sea Lord on these lines. Nevertheless, there is a strong tradition in the Admiralty of opposition to any action on the part of His Majesty's Government which might infringe the doctrine of the freedom of the seas, upon which we ourselves rely in time of war. Accordingly the Admiralty Department concerned fully expect that their submission may be questioned and that they may be asked whether the matter has been submitted to the Lord Chancellor for an opinion.

This was done in ^aprevious case concerning illegal immigration (see E 513/48/G) and a meeting finally had to be held in the Lord Chancellor's room which resulted in Mr. Beckett's minute of April 28th, 1947. The present case is not exactly parallel, because there is no question of the consent of the flag state being required before the vessel is stopped and searched. The main caveat as stated by the Legal Adviser on this occasion is that, if practicable, the vessel's state should be given an opportunity itself to take the necessary measures for preventing the arms traffic beforehand.

The competent Department of the Admiralty would like to know whether we have any objection to their referring the Foreign Office legal opinion to the Lord Chancellor's office at this stage. They would like to be able to tell the First Sea Lord that this precaution has been taken, but they do not wish in any way to reflect upon the validity of an opinion by the Foreign Office Legal Advisers.

J.G.S. Beith

J.G.S. Beith
2nd March, 1948.

No there would be no objection at all & it is quite customary for matters of this importance to be referred to the Law Officers or the Lord Chancellor in such cases. Dept. of Legal Affairs - 4/4/48

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I have so informed
 Mr D.Lds, Adhy, and
 asked him to let
 us have a copy of
 the Adhy. minute to
 the Law Officers
 HB Mar 13

RECEIVED IN C.B.
 4 MAR 1948
 SENT TO DEPT.
 5 - MAR

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E

E 3054 24

PALESTINE

5 MAR 1933

Registry
Number

E 3054/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Sir. O Henry

Dated

Paris

Received
in Registry

196

3 Mar

5 -

Illegal Immigration.
For some time past it is being increasingly
evident that the organization of illegal traffic
increasingly becomes an important factor in the
illegal immigration.
It is to be feared that the full outpouring of
these efforts on the subject of illegal immigration
of all of these people, past and present, for the
purpose of illegal immigration.
Addressed: NACCIO 12.

Last Paper.

3047

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 99P

Mar 6

6 Smith (only 11/5)
Spec Men (2 copies)

(Action
completed.)

10/3

(Index.)

24/11/48

Next Paper.

3079

(Minutes.)

See Communications Dept's note at the end. I believe
arrangements have since been made? J. Balfour

6/3

This tel. has been sent by the
Adm. by their methods.

see within

Western Dept. J. B. 9/3.

JB Mar. 8

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

E 3054

Sir O. Harvey.
No. 196.

D. 6.47 p.m. 3rd March 1948.

3rd March 1948.

R. 8.07 p.m. 3rd March 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Ajaccio telegram No. 2 of March 3rd, repeated for information to Foreign Office and Marseilles.

Please pass following to His Majesty's Consul Ajaccio.

[Begins]

Illegal Jewish immigration.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic are using Corsica as an operational base. Information has recently been received that in December last the Sette Fratelli embarked about 600 Jews in the neighbourhood of Bandol and transported them to Corsican waters where they were transferred to the Givanni Maria (which has since been intercepted). The former ship was arrested by the Toulon police in January in circumstances which indicated that she was about to repeat this operation. She was subsequently released and, after undergoing engine repairs at Bastia, left on 24th January ostensibly for Naples.

2. A member of the crew of the Marie Annick (now at Genoa) has stated that this ship left Marseilles in October last bound nominally for Dakar with a normal cargo. The cargo was in fact unloaded at Bastia and the vessel then returned to Bandol where she embarked 600 immigrants and later succeeded in landing them at Tel Aviv. It is possible that other ships may adopt the same method.

3. It is therefore of great importance that you should keep the local authorities duly informed of those ships on the suspect list which are likely to call at Corsican ports and seek their co-operation in preventing the departure of vessels likely to embark or trans-ship Jews in Corsica or the South of France.

4. Marseilles should inform you direct by en clair telegram of the departure of suspect ships from ports in their district either with cargo or in ballast.
[Ends].

[Note by Communications Department: We are unable to pass this telegram to Ajaccio as no cyphers are held there.]

W:W:W:W

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OUT MESSAGE OR POSTAGRAM (Delete as necessary)

27

FOR WAR REGISTRY USE ONLY.

No. of
Addressees

PASS TO :—

ADDRESS (See Note (iii))

Date :— 6th March, 1948

Indication of Priority

(Delete as necessary)

FROM ADMIRALTY (D.N.I.)

~~DEFERRED~~
(See Note (i))TO S.O. (I),
Malta.

ROUTINE

FROM ADMIRALTY

(See Note (ii))

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~RECORDED~~Delete as
necessary.
If non-restricted
delete all.

FOR WAR REGISTRY USE ONLY.

Page 2.

Local authorities duly informed of those ships on the suspect list
which are likely to call at Corsican ports and seek their co-operation
in preventing the departure of vessels likely to embark or trans-ship
Jews in Corsica or the South of France.

4. Marseilles should inform you direct by an airmail telegram
of the departure of suspect ships from ports in their district
either with cargo or in ballast.

08 1322

P. 2 for D.N.I.

(Ext 788)

V/R

N.I.D. and for Foreign Office.

Notes :—(i) DEFERRED should be used whenever a delay in delivery of up to 36 hours is acceptable.
(ii) Priority (IMPORTANT or above) is seldom justified for other than operational messages. Where it is
essential, insert priority required in this space and asterisk against addressee(s) requiring the priority.
If priority to all is essential, state "to all."
(iii) Write BASEGRAM where appropriate, after any sea-going addressee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE OFFICE MEMORANDUM 39/42.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371 / 68518

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>1948 19:3</p> </div> <div> <p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p> </div> <div> <p>E30YQ/G</p> <p>28</p> </div> </div>	
<p>E30YQ/12/31/48</p> <p>Mr Nigham C.O</p> <p>to Mr Keith</p> <p>Y6021/48</p> <p>Dated 28 Feb.</p>	<p>Clearance of Cyprus camps</p>
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E2698</p> <p>References.</p> <p>E1Y15/4/31</p> <p>EY24/4/31</p> <p>E2430/2/9.</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>See cancelled draft and minutes</p> <p>JB mar. 8</p>
<p>(Print.)</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>	
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25/3</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>W.H.</p>
<p>Next Paper.</p>	

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The seal of the Colonial Office, featuring a central shield with a crown on top, flanked by two lions, and a banner below with the motto "DIEU ET MON DROIT". The words "COLONIAL OFFICE" are inscribed around the top of the circular border.

Your Reference

28th February, 1948.

E30Y8

20

Dear John
E 724/4/31

8750 ... 15/4/3

Will you refer to Foreign Office telegram No. 263 to New York and New York telegram No. 350 to Foreign Office regarding the clearance of the Cyprus Camps. You have no doubt seen a copy of C. in C. MELF's Top Secret telegram 56301/G(O)C of the 18th of February which reads:

"Jews are counting the day until 15th of May and if they are not moved to Palestine before or very quickly after termination of Mandate it is likely that they will break out of camp and riot to draw world attention to themselves. This we could not stop and serious bloodshed would result from attempts to do anything other than shepherd them back to their Camps once their initial fervour has subsided."

We have not yet had the Governor's comments on this but it certainly emphasises the need to find out at the earliest possible date what exact plans the Jewish Agency has for moving the illegal immigrants from the Cyprus camps. I should be grateful therefore if you would despatch the attached draft telegram to New York.

Yours
John Higham
(J.D. Higham)

J. G. S. BEITH, ESQ.

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CYPHER
TELEGRAM

Addressed:

UKDEL, New York.

Repeated

Jerusalem,
Washington.SECRET

No.....

Your telegram No. 350 to Foreign
Office.Removal of illegal immigrants from
Cyprus.

For your own information military
authorities have reported that unless
illegal immigrants are removed from
Cyprus fairly soon after 15th of May
there is risk of disorders in the camps
which military would have great
difficulty in controlling without
bloodshed.

It is therefore important that we
should know as soon as possible detailed
arrangements proposed by Jewish Agency.
As you will be aware from my telegram
No. 263, H.M.G. would be willing to
release the two PAN ships from detention
to be operated by Jewish Agency for
clearance of camps.

Grateful if you would ask U.N.
Commission to ascertain Jewish Agency
plans.

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Registry
No.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

JG SB

Draft.

J.D. Higham
Colonial Office

from

Mr. Beith

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Mr. Beith
Mar. 2

J.D. Higham
3.3

↓
instead of replying
in what way
Mr. Beith had
written this
letter to Mr.
Higham - in
person, not by
telephone

4.3

Mr. Beith

I acted today
in accordance
with Mr. Wright's instructions
J.D. Mar 4

31
2nd March, 1948.

Thank you for your letter No.76021/48 of February 28 enclosing a draft telegram to the U.K. Delegation at New York about the present position in regard to the emptying of the Cyprus camps after May 15.

We should have no objection in principle to making the enquiry proposed through Cadogan, but it seems to us to have two practical disadvantages. First, recent developments at New York arising out of the United Nations Commission's report to the Security Council have placed the whole future of the partition plan, and with it of the Commission itself, in considerable doubt. As far as I know, the U.K. Delegation have made no progress in discussing matters of detail with the Commission and I doubt whether we should secure a useful reply to our enquiry at the present stage *in N. York*. Secondly, it would be inadvisable to give the appearance of over-anxiety in regard to the freeing of the Cyprus camps. You will recall from a previous telegram that Horowitz tried to bluff us into altering our policy about immigration before May 15 by threatening that the Jews would do nothing to empty the Cyprus camps after May 15 unless we did.

I recognise that recent events in Palestine have not made it easier to deal with the Jewish Agency ^{there} over matters of this kind. Nevertheless I suggest that we should defer any instruction/

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FO 371

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Class...371.....

Piece...68518...

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under Section 3 (4) of the
Public Records Act, 1958**

E 3104/2/31

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E

E 3117/32

1948

PALESTINE

MAR '48

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No

Dated

Received
in Registry

E3117/2/31
Sterndale
Bennett
Sofia
270
4 11/4
8

Illegal Sanctions
after E 3031/2/31 made that
it is impossible to get a number of
the most serious sanctions.
Bulgarian Govt with a doubt publishes this
only because it will be difficult to get
it out of the country. I will public
it myself. I am not prepared for it.

Last Paper.

7104

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8.9.9P
Mar 9th
Del Sofia 268
Rtd. W. Ton 374
U.K. del 56
Bucharest 72
Belgrade 98
R.M.K.O. 74

Saving

8.9.9P
Mar. 18th - E2516

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

3127

(Minutes.)

Please see also E 3031/2/31. The Secretary of State has minuted a copy of this telegram as follows:- "Ought we to pursue this? We had better get on better ground than Palestine".

I think that Mr. Sterndale-Bennett is now making rather 'heavy weather' of this correspondence with the Bulgarian Government. I agree that on balance we should probably have done better to leave out United Nations arguments in our Note to the Bulgarian Government. (But, ~~there was a good deal of discussion over this aspect of our case and it was decided to leave it out.~~ See minutes on E 661/2/31.) As it is, we have made it plain to Mr. Sterndale-Bennett that he should concentrate on the other good arguments which are available to us. (See instructions in Foreign Office telegram No. 216.)

I suggest that the Legation at Sofia and our News Department should be asked to continue taking the line indicated in our telegram No. 216 and in Mr. Sterndale-Bennett's telegram within. But I certainly think that this correspondence should now cease, so far as official notes are concerned, and that we should so inform Sofia. Moreover, I think the Secretary of State's view, as expressed in the minute quoted above, would be against pursuing this matter in an official note. The Bulgarian reply was dated February 28th, and received on March 1st. If it is to be publicised by the Bulgarian Government, this has presumably been done already. I have seen ~~no~~ results of this publicity so far and, as a general rule, I should say that the Bulgarian Government would find it difficult to secure much interest in a controversy of this kind, now that the Palestine situation both locally and at New York is altering every day.

I attach a draft telegram in the sense of the above minute.

(J. G. S. Beith)
10th March, 1948.

News Department.
UN Political Department.
Southern Department.
30471 F.O.P.

General return to Minister
LCL. Pyman
16/3
15/3

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Eastern Question Dept Gals.

Please see SotS's minute 33

*"Ought we to pursue this? We had better
get on better ground than Palestine."*

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett
No. 263

D. 11.02 a.m. March 4th, 1948.

March 2nd, 1948.

R. 11.43 a.m. March 4th, 1948.

Repeated to Washington, Bucharest, Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Saving to Belgrade, British Middle East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet.

IMPORTANT
RESTRICTED

Addressed to the Foreign Office telegram No. 263 of March 2nd, repeated for information to Washington, Bucharest, Jerusalem, United Kingdom Delegation New York and Saving to Belgrade, British Middle East Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet.

My telegram No. 161 (sent to Foreign Office only), and my telegram No. 261.

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has now replied at length to my note of January 31st in a note dated February 28th received March 1st. He has of course seized with alacrity on the "Manchester Guardian" article of February 11th (see my telegram No. 237). Following is summary of his note, copy of which follows by next bag.

2. He opens by expressing astonishment at the tone of our note and at its publication before the Bulgarian Government had a chance to reply. He deduces that we had some ulterior political and propaganda motive.

3. The note then rejects emphatically, accusation that Bulgarian authorities failed in their duty by aiding a certain number of Jews from Roumania to embark at Bourgas in Panomanian vessels. It claims that international law was scrupulously observed and that none of the Bulgarian Government's actions, unlike those of some of the other States, hindered the efforts of United Nations to reach fair settlement in Palestine.

4. Minister for Foreign Affairs then expressed his satisfaction at finding himself supported by the Manchester Guardian. Relevant part of the article is quoted verbatim and agreement is expressed with the view that so far as carrying out the obligations of United Nations is concerned His Majesty's Government are in no position to reproach the Bulgarian Government. Even if the Bulgarian Government could have supposed that the Jews crossing Bulgaria were, in fact, en route for Palestine, they would have been acting in good faith since emigration was encouraged by United Nations and there was no reason for thinking that His Majesty's Government would fail to carry out their obligations.

/5. Then follows

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Sofia tel. No. 263 to F.O.

-2-

5. Then follows a more serious attempt to meet the points raised in our note. Minister for Foreign Affairs states

(a) In September last Bulgarians were approached by Roumanian Red Cross to authorise passage of a group of Jews from Roumania emigrating to Cuba. It was clear from the documents presented that this was a normal emigration. Group carried a valid emigrant passport issued by Roumanian authorities number 130,072 of 1947. A collective visa giving permission to emigrate to Cuba issued by Cuban Consul General at Antwerp was also presented to Bulgarian authorities

(b) In December 1947 a similar request was received from Roumanian Red Cross for Jews wishing to emigrate to Bolivia. Authentic and valid documents were presented and collective passport number 208,072 of 1947 issued by Roumanian authorities. The passport bore a regular Bolivian visa issued by [grp. undec. ?Bolivian] Consul at Lyons.

6. In face of these documents, Bulgarian authorities had no reason whatever to doubt the purpose of the journey, particularly as it was being handled by Roumanian Red Cross. The fact that Panamanian vessels were being used for the voyage further confirmed Bulgarian authorities in their belief. It was only now (according to your statement of February 11th in the House of Commons) that the ownership of the vessels concerned had been called in question. His Majesty's Government could hardly reproach Bulgarian Government for helping illegal immigration of Jews when they themselves with all the means at their disposal, had not been able to establish until the last moment any irregularity in the documents of these Panamanian vessels.

7. There then follows a paragraph which, in the light of facts already admitted, seems inexpedient, and which reads as follows.

[Begins]

The statement by the British Legation that on December 25th 1947 12,000 persons were said to have moved from Roumania in the direction of Bourgas is absolutely arbitrary and unfounded.

[Ends]

The note continues that with the exception of the facts already made available by Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs all other allegations publications broadcasts not in accordance with these facts are only absurd improvisations and are categorically denied.

8. The Minister for Foreign Affairs considers that the legality and sincerity of the acts of

/Bulgarian authorities

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-3-

9. My comments will follow.

[Repeated to Washington and
United Kingdom Delegation
New York]

SSSSSS

Greys Mass
to Prince Max
We have better for us
better than Palestine R

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Cypher/OTP

35
DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Sterndale Bennett D. 9.40 a.m. 6th March 1948
No. 270 R.10.30 a.m. 6th March 1948

4th March 1948,

Repeated to Washington
U.K. Delegation New York
Bucharest
Jerusalem

Belgrade
B.M.E.O. Cairo
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet } Saving.

IMMEDIATE.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 270 of March 4th repeated for information to Washington, United Kingdom Delegation New York, Bucharest and Jerusalem and Saving to Belgrade, B.M.E.O. Cairo and Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet.

My telegram No. 263: Illegal Emigration into Palestine.

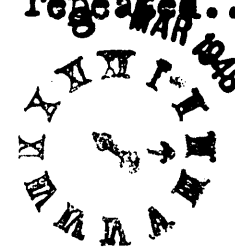
I think it must be admitted that by our reference to obligations of members of United Nations we exposed ourselves in our note of January 31st to a broadside.

2. The Bulgarian Government will no doubt publicise their reply and I presume therefore that you will think it desirable to send some answer which can equally be made public if necessary. I suggest it might be on the following lines.

3. Bulgarian note rests upon two arguments, namely that the Bulgarian Government had no reason to doubt that the Jewish emigrants who embarked at Bulgarian ports in September 1947 and December 1947 were proceeding to Cuba or Bolivia; or, alternatively, that even if they could have supposed that Palestine was the real destination the Bulgarian Government acted in good faith in belief that His Majesty's Government would have opened a port for emigration in Palestine not later than February 1st 1948.

4. The latter argument implies that Bulgarian Government would have felt free to allow emigrants to [gp.undec. ? proceed to] Palestine not only without ascertaining that Palestine Government had authorised their entry

/but actually in face of repeated.....



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2.

but actually in face of repeated warnings that Palestine Government objected to their entry, His Majesty's Government permit themselves to wonder what would be the attitude of Bulgarian Government towards such a proceeding if rôles were reversed.

E2422

5. At this point note might include substance of paragraphs 1 and 2 of your telegram No. 216 and may then continue as follows: argument which Bulgarian Government have borrowed from "Manchester Guardian" cannot in any case have any relevance to actions complained of in our note of January 31st which concerned shipments of emigrants in September and December 1947. Nor can Bulgarian Government claim that they had no reason to doubt pretended destinations of emigrants.

6. Position is that ever since August 1947 Great Britain has sought help and co-operation of Bulgarian Government in preventing illegal immigration. She has not received it. Bulgarian note shows Bulgarian Government turned completely deaf ear to all warnings of impending illegal emigration which were given by this Legation and which proved correct and to all requests therein, not only orally but in writing for strict investigation into authenticity i.e. documents presented by Jewish emigrants claiming to be bound for destinations other than Palestine. The fact that the September contingent which apparently claimed to be proceeding to Cuba had actually gone direct to Palestine was brought to the notice of the Bulgarian Government in my letter of October 17th. In spite of this information, and of repeated warnings that Pan-Crescent and Pan-Yerk were suspected of engaging in this illegal traffic, the Bulgarian Government apparently did not trouble to verify the bona fides of the December contingent which eventually embarked in these vessels.

7. His Majesty's Government note that it is now alleged that this contingent was bound for Bolivia, whereas previous Bulgarian note of January 10th asserted that its members held regular passports for emigration to Panama.

8. It is difficult to understand the relevance of the statement in latest Bulgarian note that report passed by this Legation to Bulgarian Government that 12,000 persons were said to have passed on December 25th

/from Roumania towards....

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Reference:-					
FO 371 / 68518					
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Sofia telegram No. 270 to Foreign Office.

3.

from Roumania towards Bourgas was inaccurate and unfounded. Whether or not these emigrants travelled on that particular day there is no doubt that over 15,000 Jews who had mainly come from Roumania left Bourgas in the Pan-Crescent and Pan-York, proceeded direct towards Palestine and were intercepted as they were about to enter Palestinian waters.

9. In view of the fact that the Bulgarian Government have on their own showing been deceived in that[sic] case of four separate shiploads of Jewish emigrants, His Majesty's Government trust that during continuance of Palestine mandate the Bulgarian Government will satisfy themselves by strict investigation as to the real destination of any further Jewish emigrants attempting to leave Bulgaria and will in fact be inspired by the appeal of United Nations Assembly to avoid any action likely to exacerbate the critical situation known to exist in Palestine and to precipitate Arab-Jewish conflict there.

10. It would be very telling if our reply could produce proof that, in spite of denials from Bulgarian Government, Jews of Bulgarian residence have attempted to enter Palestine illegally. I should be glad therefore of as early answers as possible to my telegrams Nos. 169, 214 and 269.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegrams Nos. 76 and 11 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation New York].

V V V

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Registry
No. E3117/2/31

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

JG SB

CYPHER

194

38

Despatched

M.

Draft.

~~Important~~
Confidential

SOFIA

Addressed to Sofia Telno. 268 of 16th March

Telegram.

No. 268

(Date) March 16

Saving to -
Repeat ~~xxx~~

Repeated Saving for information to

Washington
U.K. Del. to the United Nations
Bucharest
Jerusalem
Belgrade
B.M.E.O.
C.-in-C., Mediterranean.

Your telegram No. 270 of March 4th : Jewish

Washington 374
U.K. Del. New York
Bucharest 725A
Jerusalem
Belgrade 98 SAV
B.M.E.O. 74 SAV
C.-in-C.,
Mediterranean

Illegal Immigration.

I agree generally with the line proposed in

your telegram, and in particular with the

suggestion that we should now avoid further

reference to United Nations obligations. News

Department will use your telegram and my telegram

No. 316 in replying to any enquiries here and you

will presumably do likewise. I do not (repeat

not), however, think it will serve a useful

purpose for you to prolong the official

correspondence with the Bulgarian Government on

this subject and you should not reply to their

note. I presume that, if Bulgarian Note is to

be published, this will already have been done.

If so, it has not secured any noticeable

publicity here so far and I doubt whether it will

be widely noticed in view of the amount of fresh

news on Palestine.

2. Your para. 10. Commissioner for Jewish

Camps in Cyprus reports that statistics prepared

by the illegal immigrants themselves state that

there were 399 Bulgarians on the "Pan" ships.

There/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Co. concurs

News Dept.

U.K. Pol. Dept.

Southern Dept.

First

M. S. Smith

En-Clav.

Code

Cypher.

ELAM

Distribution :-

Diplomatic

15/3

15/3

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15/3

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371

68518

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3. I appreciate your vigilance in this matter and trust that the continued attention which is being drawn to the traffic from Bulgaria may be instrumental in preventing further large shipments during the remaining two months of the Mandate.

MTL

163

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>FO 371</p> <p>68518</p> </div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> <p>COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITH- OUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON</p> </div> </div>					

Cypher/OTP

39
DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

E3117/2/31.
Confidential.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO SOFIA

NO. 268.

March 16th, 1948. D. 4.10.p.m. March 16th, 1948.

Repeated to Washington No. 374 Saving.
U.K. Delegation New York No. 56.Saving.
Bucharest No. 72.Saving.
Jerusalem Saving.
Belgrade No. 98 Saving.
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 74 Saving.
C-in-C., Mediterranean. Saving.

Confidential.

Addressed to Sofia telegram No. 268 of March 16th,
repeated Saving for information to Washington, United
Kingdom Delegation New York, Bucharest, Jerusalem,
Belgrade, B.M.E.O. Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

Your telegram No. 270 [of March 4th; Jewish
Illegal Immigration].

I agree generally with the line proposed in your
telegram, and in particular with the suggestion that
we should now avoid further reference to United Nations
obligations. News Department will use your telegram
and my telegram No. 216 in replying to any enquiries here
and you will presumably do likewise. I do not (repeat
not), however, think it will serve a useful purpose for
you to prolong the official correspondence with the
Bulgarian Government on this subject and you should not
reply to their note. I presume that, if Bulgarian Note
is to be published, this will already have been done.
If so, it has not secured any noticeable publicity here so
far and I doubt whether it will be widely noticed in
view of the amount of fresh news on Palestine.

2. Your paragraph 10. Commissioner for Jewish
Camps in Cyprus reports that statistics prepared by the
illegal immigrants themselves state that there were
399 Bulgarians on the "Pan" ships. There is no specific
information available about the group in Camp 69 (your
telegram No. 214). Nevertheless the above report should
provide you with useful ammunition in any further
arguments with Bulgarian authorities.

3. I appreciate your vigilance in this matter, and
trust that the continued attention which is being drawn
to the traffic from Bulgaria may be instrumental in
preventing further large shipments during the remaining
two months of the Mandate.
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E

E 3127 40

1948

PALESTINE

MAR 1948

Registry
Number

E 3127/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M. G. M. way
P. M. M. M.

Dated

27.

Received
in Registry

S. M. M.

8

"ALONNA" and "SPRESS"
After letter of 21.12 (E 1586/2/31) which refers
to registration of "ALONNA" and "SPRESS" in
the registry and the passport. It is stated that
"ALONNA" has not done anything, but can't
assist in this regard, and insisted that if
"SPRESS" would not do so as any possible evidence
of support of "ALONNA" or "SPRESS" would
be lost.

Last Paper.

3117

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. G. M.
Mar 9(Action
completed.)

S. G. M. - 2

(Index.)

25/11/48

Next Paper.

3129

(Minutes.)

Reported to Rome a/b. M. M. M.

NA. M. M. M. 13
Italian Section
13/3

JD Mar. 9

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

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E 3127

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

R. 2.35 a.m. 6th March, 1948

PPP

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186

E

E 3129 42

PALESTINE

3 MAR 1948

1948

Registry Number E3129/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

W. H. Hinde
Bennett
P. H. H.
269
5/11/48
8 -

Illegal Immigration - Yugoslavia.
Refer Belgrade tel 145 (E2827/2/31), there is very
little doubt that 900 Yugoslavs left Belgrade on
Feb 14.
386 reported on Feb 29 interception off Beirut
found with approximately 800 Yugoslavs.
Known of similarity of numbers with the origin
of the party - verified.

Last Paper.

3127

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 9, P
Mar 9

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

3137

30471 F.O.P

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

43

Mr. Sterndale Bennett, D: 4.40 p.m. 6th March, 1948
No. 269
5th March, 1948. R: 8.44 p.m. 6th March, 1948.

Repeated to Washington,
Bucharest,
Belgrade,
Jerusalem,
United Kingdom Delegation New York,
B.M.E.O. Cairo.

E 3129

8 MAR 1948

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 269 of
March 5th. Repeated for information Belgrade, Bucharest,
B.M.E.O. Cairo, Jerusalem, Washington, United Kingdom
Delegation New York.

Secret.

Belgrade telegram No. 195 to Foreign Office.

Illegal Immigration through Yugoslavia.

There is very little doubt that party of 900 left
Sofia on February 14th. Our informant on [? omission]
confirmatory telegram received in Sofia from Dubrovnik,
has proved very reliable in the past.

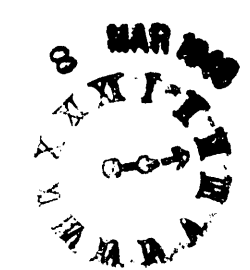
2. B.B.C. reported on February 29th interception
off Palestine of vessel with approximately 800 immigrants.
In view of similarity of numbers can the origin of this
party be verified?

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and
United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegrams Nos.
75 and 10 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington and United Kingdom
Delegation New York].

* [Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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SECRET *E put with*
**BOX No. 500,
PARLIAMENT STREET B.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.** *44*

Telephone Nos.
**REGENT 6050.
WHITEHALL 6789.**
Telegraphic Address:
SNUFFBOX, LONDON.

13th March 1948.

INDEXED

3/29 2 71

SF.215/2/B.3.a/DJS.

Dear Beith,

Please refer to telegram No. 269 of 5th March from Sofia to the Foreign Office. The vessel referred to in the second paragraph of this telegram is the "RONDINE", which was intercepted and taken to Haifa on 29th February, with 982 illegal immigrants aboard. According to information from M.I.6, which has not yet been confirmed, these immigrants were embarked at Fiume on 16/17th February. We are awaiting a report from our representative in Palestine on her arrival, which may throw a little more light on the point of embarkation of her passengers, although as a general rule little reliable information of this kind is obtained by an interrogation of the passengers.

I do not know whether a party of some 900 persons could travel from Sofia to Fiume and embark there within two to three days.

I have sent a telegram to our representative in Palestine asking if he can provide any information on the possible origin of the "RONDINE" passengers, in the light of the report from Sofia.

Yours sincerely,

D.J. Scherr

D.J. Scherr.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

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187

E

45

E 3137

1048

PALESTINE

9 MAR 1948

Registry
Number

E3137/2/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Paris

Dated

165

Received
in Registry

3 Mar

9

"SETTI FRATELLI"

Known copy of note of My Foreign Affairs
no 190 of March 3 is reply to their letter no
C.A.3. Dated 5-11-6 of 24 Feb giving
information as to "SETTI FRATELLI" and
the action taken by the French as to
capture and crew of this ship.

Last Paper.

3129

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Nizam, 60
Robertson 1415
Dodd's Admty
Mar 11.

(Action
completed.)

11/3
11/3

(Index.)

11/4
11/4

Next Paper.

3138

(Minutes.)

Copy Co.

Miss

Adm.

usual names

this is more like our
gallant allies. It's a
pity it comes so late.

Western Dept.

Good S.

13/3

18 Mar 9

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO

371

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No. 165

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Paris.
presents his compliments to HMPS of S. for F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British.....Embassy,
.....Paris.

3137

9 MAR 1948
3rd March

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of note to the Ministry of Foreign Affaires, No. 190, of 3rd March, 1948, together with a copy of note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the 24th February, 1948.	"Sette Fratelli".

3479A (30307) (6)

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PC/SD

MINISTRE DES
AFFAIRES ETRANGERES.

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE
PARIS.

Direction des Conventions
Administratives et Sociales.

Le 24 Fev. 1948.

No. C.A.3.
dossier 5-11-6.

A plusieurs reprises, l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu signaler au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères l'activité suspecte du navire "Sette Fratelli" fortement soupçonné d'embarquer clandestinement des passagers à destination de la Palestine.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a l'honneur de faire savoir à l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne que le navire a été arraisonné dans les eaux de Port-Cros par les services de surveillance de l'inscription maritime. Son capitaine, convaincu d'exercer le transport de passagers dans des conditions illégales et avec un manque total de sécurité, a été déferé devant le Procureur de la République à Toulon. Par un jugement en date du 31 décembre dernier, il a été condamné à l'amende et à la prison. Son équipage a également subi des peines d'emprisonnement et d'amende. Le capitaine et l'équipage ont été ensuite, après avoir purgé leurs condamnations, autorisés à se rendre à Gênes avec leur navire mais seulement après démontage des 300 couchettes dont la présence à bord avait été constatée.

Selon les derniers renseignements reçus, le "Sette Fratelli" s'est réfugié dans notre port de Bastia pour y réparer une avarie de moteur. Il a été signifié au capitaine l'interdiction d'embarquer des passagers et le navire a été spécialement signalé au Préfet de Bastia pour que la police et la gendarmerie exerce un contrôle sévère pour que tout suspect ne puisse monter à bord. Ambassade de S.M. Britannique.

48

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189

E

PALESTINE

E 3167

49

5 MAR 1948

Registry
Number

E 3167/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Mr. J. Murray

Dated

38 Paris

Received
in Registry

3/11/48

9 -

Illegal transportation from "THORPE"
 91 + report that the "THORPE" with
 accumulation for 500 illegal immigrants left ASHCOVE
 on 26 25 at night for Marseilles. There was
 lowest indications that the way have reached
 town of an Italian port on the following day.
 Also Marseilles to ascertain urgently whether ship
 has arrived around Marseilles or neighbouring
 port.

ADDRESSED Marseilles 1.16.

(Minutes)

Last Paper.

3/38

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 9.9.1

Mar G. E 3117

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

3123

30471 F.O.P.

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E 3167
9 MAR 1948

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9 MAR 1948

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No. 439
68/5/48)

His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy

Washington, D. C.

10 MAR 1948

March 4th 8
....., 194...

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter from Chancery Washington to Colonial Secretariat, Cyprus, dated 4th March, 1948.	Jewish Internee, Chaim Bugay
Copy also sent to Jerusalem P/L No. 3	

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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Reference:--

FO 371 68518

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C O P Y

1420 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 5, D.C.

March 3, 1948.

Thomas Bromley, Esquire,
British Embassy,
3100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bromley,

Pursuant to our telephone conversation today, I am writing you in behalf of Chaim Bugay, who for the past several months has been incarcerated in Camp 60, Cyprus, c/o A.I.G., C.I.D., Jerusalem, Palestine.

This information has just been received by my mother, Mrs. Rose Bugay, of 8638 Germantown Avenue, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in a letter written to her by her nephew, Chaim Bugay. Detailed information regarding the circumstances of his incarceration in Cyprus is not available, but I believe he must have emigrated from Europe to Palestine following the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine.

Chaim Bugay is a young man, 27 years of age, and a person of excellent character and background. I would like to do everything in my power to assist him in being legally admitted to Palestine. May I call upon you for your help in addressing a communication to the proper authorities at Cyprus inquiring into his status, the reason for his incarceration, and to make every effort possible to effect his early release from detention camp?

Respectfully yours,
(sgd) PAUL E. BUGAY.

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[Enclosure to Washington P/L No. 439 to Foreign Office
of 4th March, 1948]

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ref: 558/5/48
RESTRICTED

4th March, 1948.

Dear Colonial Secretariat,

We enclose herein a self-explanatory letter which we have received from a Mr. Paul Bugay of Washington about a relative of his who is apparently one of the Jewish illegal immigrants detained in Cyprus. The only additional piece of information, which the writer gave us on the telephone, was that Chaim Bugay had, he thought, been in Cyprus for about ten months.

2. We would be grateful for any information you can give us about him, and in particular we should like to know whether he is likely to be due for admission to Palestine before the 15th May.

3. It was explained to the writer that some Cyprus detainees were being released each month under the quota but that people had naturally to take their turn.

4. We are sending copies of this letter to the Foreign Office and to Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Colonial Secretariat,
CYPRUS.

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enter
British Consulate-General,
Marseilles.

11th February, 1948.

Secret
S 36 - S 43

56
E 3289

11 MAR 1948

With the compliments
of
H.M. Consul-General.

The Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

5-3-48
1424

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FO 371

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